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COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
First session
29 March-8 April 1993
Agenda item 16

# ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS FIRST SESSION

## Draft report

## Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Denis A. Davis

## Action taken by the Committee

## Activities of the United Nations system in the field of mineral resources

(Agenda item 10)

1. The Committee reaffirmed the importance of mineral resources for sustainable development, particularly of developing countries and economies in transition.

2. Having reviewed the activities of the United Nations in the development and management of mineral resources, the Committee expressed its support for the technical cooperation activities carried out by the Department of Economic and Social Development in that field, including their economic and scientific aspects.

3. The Committee stressed that providing assistance and support to the developing countries and economies in transition to attract foreign investments and negotiate complex foreign investment agreements was among the important areas of such technical cooperation.

4. The Committee noted, in particular, the important social role of mineral resources development and its potential contribution in the fight against poverty. It stressed that the social implications of the ongoing trend towards privatization of mining activities should receive adequate attention.

5. With regard to its own role in relation to non-renewable energy sources, the Committee wishes to underscore the following:

(a) The role of the new Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and Energy for Development is fully acknowledged;

(b) Note is taken of the fact that the mandate of the above new Committee is focused on energy development, efficiency and consumption;

(c) The exploration and extraction of coal and uranium resources have much in common with those activities as related to other mineral resources;

(d) Likewise, environmental impacts of the exploration and extraction of coal and uranium have close affinities with those related to other mineral resources;

(e) Furthermore, non-renewable energy minerals are also used for the production of other products and as a substitute for other commodities.

6. In view of the above, when the Committee is considering issues that are common to exploration, extracting, processing and the environmental impact of mineral resources in general, it would not necessarily wish to exclude energy resources.

7. The Committee noted with regret the absence of a report by the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration at the first session of the Committee.

8. The Committee recommends:

(a) That the Secretary-General be requested by the Economic and Social Council to prepare for the second session of the Committee a report on technical cooperation activities of the United Nations system in the mining sector, and in doing so, to attribute special attention to projects aimed at enhancing the capacity of the developing countries and economies in transition (i) to develop effective foreign investment policies and negotiate mining investment agreements, and (ii) to develop and implement adequate social policies to respond to the ongoing trends towards privatization of the mining sector;

(b) That the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme be invited by the Economic and Social Council to submit, at the second session of the Committee, a report on the activities of the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration. Such a report should include current administrative mechanisms and financing arrangements, as well as an extensive assessment of achievements and future programmes of activities of the Fund, taking into consideration the increased involvement of private foreign mining companies into the mining sector of developing countries and economies in transition.

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